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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Surface Formations and Agricultural Conditions of Northwestern Minnesota (Minnesota Geological Survey, *Bulletin*, no. 12). By FRANK LEVERETT. With a chapter on Climatic Conditions of Minnesota by U. G. PURSSELL. (Minneapolis, The University of Minnesota, 1915. vi, 78 p., maps, plates, diagrams)

This report, describing in much detail the surface formations and soils of the northwest quarter of Minnesota, is based on field work covering a period of eight years, conducted by Mr. Frank Leverett, United States geologist, in coöperation with Professor F. W. Sardeson and other specialists connected with the work of the Minnesota Geological Survey. Two additional reports of similar scope, treating of the northeastern quarter and the southern half of the state, are expected to be ready for publication within a year.

Accompanying the report is a large folded map, drawn to the scale of eight miles to an inch, showing the areas of the various formations, comprising the glacial and modified drift, lacustrine and alluvial deposits, and great swamps. Exceptional features noted are the beach ridges of gravel and sand marking the shore lines of the glacial Lake Agassiz, a broad tract of alluvial silt along the Red River, and very extensive areas of swamp adjoining Red Lake and stretching northward, with slight interruptions, to the Rainy River and the Lake of the Woods, and thence west to the Roseau lake and river. The only noteworthy hilly tracts are the complex series of marginal moraines, usually bearing many boulders, amassed at the border of the waning continental ice sheet, where its melting was slackened so that the border was for several or many years nearly stationary or sometimes re-advanced. Associated with these moraines are many large and small areas of outwashed gravel and sand plains. Esker ridges of gravel are mapped in only two places, one being about two miles south and the other about seven to twelve miles east of Perham.

Rock outcrops are shown only at one place on the Rainy River, near Manitou, and at a few places on the Minnesota part of the shores and islands of the Lake of the Woods. This quarter of the state, indeed, has the fewest rock exposures; its eastern limit is about thirty miles west of International Falls, and its southeast corner is near the center of Crow Wing County.

It would be of great aid to those who can not conveniently consult other maps and descriptions giving details of the altitude and contour of this region, had there been inserted on this map figures indicating the height in feet above the sea level of lakes, rivers, and railway stations. Such notation would show, for instance, the height of Red Lake to be 1,176 feet; of the water divide in the vast swamp about six to eight miles north of the lake, about 1,195 feet; and of the Lake of the Woods, 1,061 feet. A somewhat elevated tract, named Beltrami Island, having an area of 1,167 square miles above the contour line of 1,200 feet, lies northwest of Red Lake, above which its highest part rises 135 feet. Instead of a sense of altitude, however, the traveler, accustomed elsewhere to see hills and mountains, receives in nearly all of this region an impression of a country quite monotonously low and flat.

For what Minnesota lacks in scenery she has adequate compensation in her fertility of soil, in her wealth of forest and iron ores, and in her salubrity of climate. Within the area covered by this report lies the most notable agricultural district of the state, the wide and very flat Red River Valley, where wheat and all crops adapted to this latitude yield in unsurpassed abundance, while no climatic conditions of occasional and exceptional droughts, or of too heavy rains, or of frosts in the growing season, have ever caused a general failure of crops.

For the determination of the various factors in immigration, agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and every phase of industrial, educational, and moral advancement, probably the weather, all that we call climate, exercises more important guidance and control than even the topographic features of a country, the geologic conditions of underlying rocks, and the chemical composition of soils. The history of any land is influenced in largest degree by the climate, and secondarily by the geologic structure. Therefore the historian may very advantageously study the care-

fully compiled climatic records of Minnesota graphically shown by a series of nine small page maps of the state and by ten tables of weather statistics presented in the second chapter of this report by Mr. Purssell, the United States weather observer in Minneapolis.

Another interesting page map shows the diverse sheets of the glacial drift, the loess-covered driftless area, and the bed of Lake Agassiz; and the last of the series delineates the areas of forest and prairie, the latter occupying the southern and western third of this state.

WARREN UPHAM

English Lutheranism in the Northwest. By Rev. GEORGE HENRY TRABERT, D.D. With an introduction by Rev. G. H. GERBERDING, D.D. (Philadelphia, General Council Publication House, 1914. xiii, 184 p.)

This book is an account of the beginning and growth of the English Lutheran Church work in the northwestern states. Since immigration from the northern European countries began to decrease, the great problem of the Lutheran Church has been to adjust itself to the conditions created by the rapid Americanization of its young people. The transition among immigrants and their descendants from a foreign language to English necessitated the organization of English congregations if these people were not to be lost to the Lutheran faith. As early as 1856 Rev. William A. Passavant of Pittsburgh visited Minnesota and made plans for establishing English Lutheran churches. Definite action was deferred, however. The great stream of immigration as well as the Civil War diverted attention from the English work. In 1881 Dr. Passavant, as chairman of the home mission committee of the General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America, made two visits to Minnesota and secured a location in Minneapolis for an English church. The result was that the home mission committee called Rev. George H. Trabert of Salem Church, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, to go as a missionary to Minneapolis. His report to the general council of a preliminary trip in April, 1882, is here reprinted in full.

The work was begun in the spring of 1883. Rev. Trabert has been a pastor in Minneapolis since that time and has taken a